

WEEK 3 LESSON GUIDE



BIG IDEA

God is bigger than we could ever understand.

BIBLE

God Speaks To Job: Job 38:1–7, 34–41;
Matthew 6:25–34

ABOUT THIS WEEK

When we spend time traveling, we come to realize the world is actually so much bigger than we ever dreamed. This week, we'll explore God's response as Job tried to understand what was happening in his life and why. God didn't just give Job an answer, though, but asked him a bunch of questions that help us all recognize that **God is bigger than we could ever understand.**

LARGE GROUP TIME

Welcome back! It's week three of our journey to the land of Uz, Job's hometown. His journey has been a particularly difficult one but today we'll see what God has to say. We braved a busy airport then we took to the skies to fly after some delay and turbulence. Now, we're traveling on the ground by train and heading for our destination. It's still a long way from here, but there will be plenty of things to see, learn, and do *Along the Way!*

WHAT? *What are we talking about today?*

ACTIVITY | Travel Pillow Toss

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** For this activity, you will need masking tape and a horseshoe toss (like [this](#)). Lay down a starting line with masking tape. Set up a horseshoe toss a few feet away from the starting line. The horseshoes are "travel pillows" for the purposes of this game. To play, divide kids into teams and have them get as many "pillows" around the "passenger" as possible.
 - ✂ **PRETEEN HACK:** Give each team an actual travel pillow like [this](#), and set up [traffic cones](#) as the "passenger." You can also have three traffic cones per team and designate higher points for traffic cones placed further away.
- Nothing helps a nice car ride or traveling on an airplane like a travel pillow. A travel pillow comes in clutch when we want to rest and get comfortable while on the move.
- While pillows might help us out, what doesn't help is that one person who is trying to talk to you the whole time while you're trying to sleep. Looking at the story of Job, we see that Job's friends had been talking to him nonstop after their initial week of silence. They weren't bringing him comfort, and the words they were saying weren't helpful at all.
- Instead of his friends bringing him down, Job needed to hear from someone else. Let's find out who!

ACTIVITY | Rock Paper Scissors Train

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** For this activity, you'll need to pair kids up. To play, have each pair play "Rock, Paper, Scissors."

The winner shouts, "All aboard!" and the other player has to stand behind and place their hands on the winner's shoulders. The pair marches around the room, chanting, "Chug-a-chug-a-chug-a-chug-a-choo-choo!" Once they meet another "train," the players in front play "Rock, Paper, Scissors," and the entire losing train has to join the winning train! Keep playing until the final two trains face off and form one long train!

✂ **PRETEEN HACK:** For those preteens who are reluctant to play games, especially in mixed-aged groups, invite them to set up and or run the games. It'll keep them involved without the added tension of feeling awkward or embarrassed.

✂ **ACCESSIBILITY HACK:** Instead of using hand signs, have kids clap their hands one time to represent "rock," clap two times to represent "paper," and clap three times to represent "scissors."

- It's time to board a train—the *Along the Way Express*! The train started small, with just one person being the engine, but it eventually grew really big and included everyone in the room!
- Today we'll talk about something—or someone—being bigger than we could ever know or understand! *All aboard!*

QUESTION | What would be the most amazing place to visit?

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Ask the following question. Encourage them to dream big! You can have every kid shout their answer but then ask a few kids to share their answers with everyone. Comment briefly on their answers—and have fun with this!
- **What would be the most amazing place to visit?**
- Those all sound like amazing places. There's a whole world of adventure to discover, all around us! God created this entire world but still makes time to talk to us and care about us! That's the most amazing of all, right?

SO WHAT? Why does it matter to God and to us?

SCRIPTURE | Job 38:1–7, 34–41 (God Speaks To Job)

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Seat kids like they're on a monorail, with rows of two seats facing each other on either side of an aisle. For larger groups, make several "trains" in your space. If possible, play a video like [this](#) to simulate a monorail ride. Add a [train conductor hat](#) to your [flight attendant get-up](#) from previous weeks if you choose to dress up. Show a short clip from a video like [this](#) one (0:00-1:33), or something like it, to show our beautiful earth before you begin.
- Welcome aboard the *Along the Way Express*, everyone! Along the way, you might see towering, snow-capped mountains, shimmering blue lakes, lush green forests, rolling hills, winding rivers, and views of the magnificent sea. And tonight, when the sun goes down, you'll see more stars than you ever knew were in the sky!
 - **Isn't God's creation amazing?**
 - **What is your favorite thing about nature?**
- God creates beautiful, wonderful things. God created you and me, and we are beautiful and wonderful, too! Even so, sometimes difficult things happen to us and around us. When they do, we might start to question why God allowed it to happen.
 - That's what was happening with our friend Job. He was going through a pretty tough time. He lost his family and everything he owned, including his health. To make matters worse, his friends, who started off being somewhat of a comfort, turned out to be the worst comforters ever!
 - Eliphaz, Bildad, Zophar, and later Elihu started to suggest that Job was suffering because he had done something wrong and deserved to be punished by God. Or maybe God wasn't punishing Job,

but trying to use these hard experiences to teach him something. But truth be told, it really wasn't their place to say. They weren't God, and it was only God who could answer Job about why it was happening.

- So God finally spoke. And instead of answering these questions, God asked Job and his friends questions, too.
- **Read Job 38:1–3.**
 - God was saying, "Who are you to question my plans without knowing all the facts? Get ready to listen, and I'll ask you some important questions."
 - It's not because God doesn't want us to ask questions. But their questions showed that they forgot who they were dealing with. They forgot they were talking to God, the same God that knows everything and can do more than we could ever hope to understand.
- **Let's read Job 38:4–7, 34–41.**
- *Pause after each question mark and invite kids to try and supply the answer.*
 - By asking all these questions, God was trying to show Job and his friends that they could never fully understand God's ways. God is just too big for humans to even imagine, and the Bible says that God's ways are higher than our ways and God's thoughts are higher than our thoughts.
 - But that doesn't mean we mean nothing to God. It's exactly the opposite. God cares about us deeply, delights in us, and wants to know us. While we may not know all the answers, we have a God that is big enough to handle our questions, is patient with us when we don't understand, and we can trust that God has it all under control.
- Even when everything feels like it's going wrong, we can leave it up to God. Even when we don't have all the answers, and we don't understand, God is with us!

BIG IDEA | God is bigger than we could ever understand.

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *For this activity, you will need an eight-piece [train set](#), masking tape, and a marker. Take the train set, and with masking tape and a marker, write one word of the Big Idea on each train. Make sure you write "God" on the "engine" piece. Invite kids to come up and try to put the train cars in the correct order, then recite the Big Idea together.*
- Sometimes, trains get delayed because they need to switch tracks or add cars. Let's get these cars back on track! And the first thing we need is this—the engine with "God," because without God, this train won't go anywhere! **God is bigger than we could ever understand.**

VIDEO | A Clip from "Christopher Robin"

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Pass out small packs or cups of Goldfish crackers or other non-allergenic food items (like a small snack you could bring on a train). Then have the kids watch [this clip](#) from Christopher Robin, or something like it, as their on-board entertainment. If possible, have kids all sit in small groups around a leader who can play the clip on their device. This helps create the idea of everyone being in a small space to watch the on-board movie. For more information on how to legally use copyrighted material for educational purposes, [read this!](#)*
- Passengers, I hope you enjoyed today's on-board entertainment!
- Pooh was calling out the things he could see as they passed by the countryside on the train. **What are some of the things you see now?**
- There are so many things we can see, but that's not everything. There is an entire universe that we cannot see with our eyes alone. There are billions of stars and billions of galaxies.
- But it's not just the things in the vastness of outer space that we cannot see. There are things right in front of us that we can't fully see, like when Pooh saw clouds: he might have seen big, white, fluffy shapes, but he probably couldn't see the water molecules that make up the clouds, at least not without a microscope.

- There is so much in God's creation that we cannot see because **God is bigger than we could ever understand**. And that great big God is watching over you!

ACTIVITY | What You Don't See

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *For this activity, you'll need to glue two pieces of different colored paper back to back. Trim the edges if necessary so that the other color is not visible from any one side. To conduct this activity, split the kids in half, creating a clear space in between the groups. Stand in the middle and present the prepared paper so that each group can only see one side of the paper. You can also do this as an upfront activity with two volunteers standing on either side of the paper.*
 - ✂ **ACCESSIBILITY HACK:** *To provide a visual of how God is so much bigger than we can imagine, allow kids to interact with this [Scale of the Universe website](#). Have a tablet, laptop, or phone(s) available to use for this. Talk about how small the parts of our universe are but how massive God actually created it to be. Discuss what they think about God when they watch this video.*
- On the count of three, the first team to correctly answer this question is the winner. One, two, three.
 - **What color is this paper?**
 - **Why are you each giving me a different answer?**
- It must be because ... each side of this paper is a different color! You were both correct and also incorrect because you could only see that one color depending on which side of the room you were on. Only I knew that this paper was two different colors.
- That's the thing about being human. What we know is limited to what we can see and experience for ourselves, which can feel big to us, but it's definitely not as big as everything that's going on in the world. And that's what God sees—everything.
- The world is filled with all sorts of tragedies, disasters, and unrest. And it's natural to wonder and ask God questions. But sometimes when God answers our questions, it may be to show us that we are not seeing things the same way God sees them. And that's what God did with Job.
- **God is bigger than we could ever understand.** And even though we might never understand, we can trust God's view of the big picture.

SCRIPTURE | Matthew 6:25–34

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Read the passage out loud or invite a volunteer to read for the group. At the end, play a song [like this](#) (0:00-1:00). For more information on how to legally use copyrighted material for educational purposes, [read this!](#)*
- This passage contains one of many teachings of Jesus while he was on earth. People came from everywhere to listen to his words because he revealed truths about God that taught them how to follow God.
- **What is one word you heard over and over in this passage?** Yup. "Worry." Jesus was teaching the people that worrying won't solve anything. He even asked, "*Can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your life?*" He wasn't just saying, "Don't worry, be happy!" He understood that when you trust God, you know God will show up for you.
- Jesus was able to tell people not to worry because he knew God. This passage reminds us that God created everything in the universe, and even though **God is bigger than we could ever understand**, God cares about each and every one of us. When we realize that we are in the hands of our big God, we can stop worrying and turn our focus to God. And when we "*seek first his kingdom and his righteousness*," God will take care of everything else!

VIDEO | Along the Way, Episode 3

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Play this week's episode of [Grow TV](#).*

NOW WHAT? *What does God want us to do about it?*

REFLECTION | What If

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Dim the lights in your space and invite kids to close their eyes. You could even pass out [eye masks](#) and have kids sit back in their chairs. Ask the following questions.*
 - ✖ **ACCESSIBILITY HACK:** *Kids with disabilities may require more support in activities or discussions. Take your time to explain in more detail and give them ample time to try.*
- **What if God spoke to you right now?**
- **What do you think God's voice sounds like?**
- **What are some questions you might have for God?**
- Job went through a terrible situation—many terrible situations, in fact. Even though he still loved and trusted God, he couldn't figure out the "why." Why was this happening? After listening to all his friends give their own (not-so-great) explanations, he knew he could only wait for God.
- But when God shows up, God doesn't say why. Maybe you've experienced something like this before.
 - **Have you ever asked a grown-up, "Why?" and had them answer, "Because I said so?"**
 - **Did you enjoy that response?**
 - Yeah, I didn't like it when people said that to me when I was younger, too. (I still don't like it.)
- But if we think about it, the grown-ups who love and care for us probably see a bigger picture than we can.
 - **Can we trust them even though we may not fully understand the reason why?**
 - It might seem strange when grown-ups don't supply a good enough reason—in our opinion, anyway—but we can trust that they give us instructions meant to help us and protect us.
- God doesn't tell us, "Because I said so," but sometimes the things God does can be pretty mysterious. But because we love and trust God, we don't need to wait for an explanation. **God is bigger than we could ever understand**, and that's awesome!

RESPONSE | Big Idea Passport

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Use the Big Idea passports you assembled in Week 1. Make sure you have extra copies for kids who weren't here previously and collect the passports back at the end. Consider using [visa stamps](#) or [stickers](#) to decorate the pages.*
- When you travel, you'll need to have a passport. A passport shows who you are and what country you're a citizen of. If you get into trouble along the way, you can use your passport to get help from your home country! Your passport can also remind you of all the places you've been and what you saw and experienced along the way!
- Please confirm that you have the correct passport, then turn to the third blank page.
 - **Write today's Big Idea at the top of the page: God is bigger than we could ever understand.**
 - **Then write or draw about something God created that reminds you of how big God is!**
- We are almost done filling out our passports with important truths we're learning about God through Job's story along the way!

MEMORY VERSE | Psalm 121:8 (NIV)

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Learn the memory verse together using any combination of the resources provided: [memory verse coloring page](#), [sign language motions](#), or choose from [this list](#) of our favorite memorization techniques!*
- **"The Lord will watch over your coming and going both now and forevermore."**

PRAYER

- God, you are amazing. You created everything in this world. You are bigger than we could ever understand, and yet you love us so much. Thank you for taking care of us every day. Amen.

SMALL GROUP TIME

DISCUSSION

● SCRIPTURE QUESTIONS

- **Who created the earth and measured it?** *God.*
- **Why do you think God asked Job this question and others like it?** *Possible answer: To remind Job and his friends that God is the creator of everything and they could rely on God's knowledge and power.*
- **How do you think Job felt when God asked him this question?**
- **Read Matthew 6:34. Why do you think Jesus tells us not to worry about the future?**

● APPLICATION QUESTIONS

- **How does it make you feel knowing that God is bigger than we could ever understand?**
- **How can you show that you trust God, even when you don't fully understand how big God is?**
- **What are some of the things you worry about that you can turn over to God instead of worrying about them?**

ACTIVITY | Keep On Tracking

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** For this activity, you'll need to provide the [printable](#) for each kid. To make this, have kids fill in the train cars with pictures or words from the memory verse or Big Idea. After they color it in, have them cut the printable along the dotted lines and attach the ends using tape. Then have them do an accordion fold so that their train can stand. See a worked example [here](#).
 - ✂ **PRETEEN HACK:** Have preteens work to put together a train track to be displayed in their kids ministry area for the rest of the series or the rest of the year as a reminder that God is bigger than we could every understand. Give each preteen a track piece. Allow them to color their [track](#) and write the Big Idea or memory verse with [chalk paint markers](#) or regular markers. Then they can connect their track pieces together. Consider having preteens sign their name on a [train](#) with a permanent pen, then put the train on the tracks.
 - ✂ **ACCESSIBILITY HACK:** Pre-cut the printable beforehand, or provide [adaptive scissors](#) for kids to use.
- We may not see what lies ahead on the tracks of our lives, but we can train ourselves to trust God's love and plans for us. **God is bigger than we could ever understand**, and all we need to do is keep on tracking with that truth!